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AB-2113 Refugees, asylees, and special immigrant visa holders: professional licensing: initial licensure process. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Bill No. 2113

CHAPTER 186

An act to add Section 135.4 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations.

[Approved by Governor September 27, 2020. Filed with Secretary of State September 27, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2113, Low. Refugees, asylees, and special immigrant visa holders: professional licensing: initial licensure process.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law prohibits a board within the department from denying licensure to an applicant based upon their citizenship or immigration status.

This bill, notwithstanding any other law, would require a board within the department to expedite, and authorize it to assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that they are a refugee, have been granted asylum, or have a special immigrant visa, as specified. The bill would authorize a board to adopt regulations necessary to administer these provisions.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 135.4 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

135.4. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a board within the department shall expedite, and may assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that they have been admitted to the United States as a refugee under Section 1157 of Title 8 of the United States Code, have been granted asylum by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Section 1158 of Title 8 of the United States Code, or they have a special immigrant visa (SIV) that has been granted a status under Section 1244 of Public Law 110-181, under Public Law 109-163, or under Section 602(b) of Title VI of Division F of Public Law 111-8.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as changing existing licensure requirements. A person applying for expedited licensure under subdivision (a) shall meet all applicable statutory and regulatory licensure requirements.

(c) A board may adopt regulations necessary to administer this section.